THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) The customs duty on import of steel melting scrap is already nil.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) and (d) In the National Steel Policy (NSP) it has been envisaged that by 2019-20 the country would attain an indigenous steel production of 110 MT and a consumption level of 90 million MT.

In order to achieve this goal, the NSP seeks to remove the supply-side constraints to the growth of Indian steel industry in an open, globally integrated and competitive environment. The NSP seeks to adopt a multi-pronged strategy to move towards the long-term policy goal. On the demand side, the strategy would be to create incremental demand through promotional efforts, creation of awareness and strengthening the delivery chain, particularly in rural areas. On the supply side, the strategy would be to facilitate creation of additional capacity, remove procedural and policy bottlenecks in the availability of inputs such as iron ore and coal, make higher investments in R&D and encourage the creation of infrastructure such as roads, railways, and ports.

(e) Does not arise in view of (c) and (d) above.

Iron ore trade with China

1955. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Chinese delegation visited India in September, 2005 to enter into a long term pact on iron ore import;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a policy not to export iron ore but instead to export value added steel products;

(d) the final decision taken after the discussions with Chinese delegation; and

(e) whether it will adversely affect the home market?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) The details of Chinese delegation which visited India during September, 2005 are as under:

1. A 14-member delegation led by Mr. Luo Bingsheng, Executive Vice Chairman of China Iron & Steel Association (CISA) visited India from 19-27th September, 2005 to interact with major iron ore producers and discuss issues concerning future cooperation.
2. A50-member delegation led by Mr. Yan Bangsong, Vice Chairman of China Chamber of Commerce of Metals Minerals & Chemical Importers & Exporters (CCCMC), visited India from 20th Sept. to Oct. 1 st, 2005 to discuss *inter-alia* issues like Chinese iron ore import condition, Indian iron ore production, export conditions, Indian investment policy for iron ore.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The visits were exploratory in nature to mutually understand import and export operations of iron ore in each other's country.

(e) In view of (d) above, does not arise.

Target for exporting steel

t1956. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the

Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set any target for exporting steel from the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether production of steel will have to be increased in the country to meet this target;

(d) if so, the quantum of production to be increased against the present production; and

(e) the annual rate of production fixed for this?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) No, Sir. (b) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

†Original notice of the question was receved in Hindi